

CLAIMS

1. A palatable pharmaceutical composition for oral administration to companion animals comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a pharmaceutically active agent in combination with a palatability improving agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the palatability improving agent is non-meat and non-fish derived, and is present in amounts sufficient to make the pharmaceutical composition palatable to the companion animal, provided that when the palatability improving agent is yeast, it is present in an amount ranging from about 2% to about 25% by weight of the palatable pharmaceutical composition.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent provides for voluntary acceptance of the palatability improving agent by the companion animal which is greater than or equal to about 30% voluntary acceptance.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent provides for voluntary acceptance of the palatability improving agent by the companion animal which is greater than or equal to about 50% voluntary acceptance.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent provides for voluntary acceptance of the palatability improving agent by the companion animal which is greater than or equal to about 80% voluntary acceptance.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent provides for voluntary acceptance of the palatability improving agent by the companion animal which is greater than or equal to about 90% voluntary acceptance.

6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent provides for voluntary acceptance of the palatability improving agent by the companion animal of about 90% or greater.

7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is homogeneously mixed with the palatability improving agent.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent is selected from the group consisting of artificial egg, artificial beef, artificial poultry, artificial fish, dairy based palatability improving agent and natural herbs and species, or a mixture thereof.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically active agent has an unacceptable taste and the palatability improving agent is present in amounts sufficient to mask or improve the unacceptable taste of the pharmaceutically active agent.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent is present in an amount ranging from about .025% to about 99% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

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11. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent is not yeast and is present in an amount ranging from about .075% to about 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent is not yeast and is present in an amount ranging from about 1% to about 25% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the palatability improving agent is yeast and is present in an amount ranging from about 2% to about 25% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

14. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the palatability agent is yeast present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 20% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the palatability improving agent is an artificial egg, artificial beef, or artificial poultry.

16. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the palatability improving agent is a mixture of natural herbs and spices.

17. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the palatability improving agent is derived from low fat milk.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the palatability improving agent is a low fat cheese product or artificial cheese.

19. A palatable pharmaceutical composition for administration to companion animals comprising a pharmaceutical effective amount of a pharmaceutically active agent admixed with a palatability improving agent and in association with a pharmaceutical carrier, said palatability improving agent being a yeast or yeast hydrolysate, or a combination thereof, said yeast or yeast hydrolysate, or a combination thereof, being present in an amount ranging from about 2% by weight to about 25% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

20. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19 wherein the yeast hydrolysate is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 20% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

21. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19 wherein the pharmaceutical has an unacceptable taste and the palatability improving agent is present in amounts sufficient to mask the unacceptable taste of the pharmaceutically active agent.

22. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 in the form of a tablet, cachet, pill, capsule, troche or chewable tablet.

23. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 in the form of a tablet.

24. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 wherein the companion animal is a mammal.

25. The composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 wherein the mammal is a dog, cat, or horse.

26. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 wherein the mammal is a dog or cat.

5 27. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 wherein the palatability improving agent stabilizes the pharmaceutical composition.

10 28. A method of making a palatable pharmaceutical composition for oral administration to a companion animal which comprises mixing a pharmaceutically effective amount of a pharmaceutically active agent with an effective amount of a palatability improving agent and a pharmaceutical carrier and orally administering said product to the companion animal, the palatability improving agent being present in amounts sufficient to make the pharmaceutical palatable to the companion animal.

15 29. The method of Claim 28 wherein said palatability improving agent is selected from the group consisting of artificial egg, artificial beef, artificial poultry, artificial fish, dairy based palatability improving agent and natural herbs and spices or a mixture thereof.

20 30. A method of making a pharmaceutical composition for oral administration to a companion animal palatable thereto which comprises admixing a pharmaceutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical with a palatability improving agent and a pharmaceutical carrier and orally administering said product to a companion animal, such palatability improving agent being a yeast or a yeast hydrolysate, said yeast or yeast hydrolysate being present in an amount ranging from about 2% to weight to about 25% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

25 31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the palatability improving agent is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 20% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

32. The method of Claim 30 wherein the companion animal is a cat.

33. The method of Claim 30 wherein the companion animal is a dog.

34. A method of administering a pharmaceutical composition to a companion animal which comprises administering thereto the pharmaceutical composition according to claims 1 or 19.

30 35. A method for enhancing compliance with a therapeutic program for companion animals comprising administering to the animal a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19.

35 36. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or Claim 19 in the form of a tablet, wherein water is present in an amount less than about 7.5% free or absorbed water content as measured by loss on drying.

37. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or Claim 19 in the form of a tablet, wherein water is present in an amount less than about 5% free or absorbed water content as measured by loss on drying.

38. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 or 19 in the form of a
5 tablet, wherein the hardness of the tablet is in the range of from about 2.5 kP to 25 kP.

39. A palatable pharmaceutical composition for oral administration to companion animals comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a pharmaceutically active agent in combination with a palatability improving agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the palatability improving agent is non-meat, non-fish and non-yeast-derived, and is present in amounts sufficient to make the pharmaceutical composition palatable to the companion animal.